

and whitening, had ten million feet of white pine cut each year for a period of six or seven years.

At that time hardwood seemed to be of little value. During the past fifteen or twenty years it has been cut rapidly, perhaps as much as one hundred and fifty to two hundred million feet have been taken from Knapps Creek and Douthards Creek and some valuable tracts are still standing.

The first saw mills to dot this section were the up and down mills run by water power. If we are rightly informed, there were three of these; one owned and operated by Moore's at a point about opposite Moore Schoolhouse, one was on the Lockridge farm where Douthards creek unites with Knapps Creek, and the third mill was built by Henry Harper and operated by him and his son Samuel, for a number of years. This last mill continued sawing until about 1890 and was the last mill of its kind to be operated in the community. Sometimes during the eighties P. M. Harper sawed lumber on this mill to build his house where Mrs. E. A. Pritchard now lives.

The first circular saw mill in this neighborhood was brought here from Augusta county, Virginia, for Wise Herold and I. B. Moore. Many people visited the new mill to observe its working.

Grist mill. The first mill to grind grain was the one owned by Michael Dougherty on the Mill Run where he settled. Peter Lightner, who was a well known citizen here in 1855, had a mill on the run at D. W. Dever's. Joseph Sharp, a pioneer of Frost, had a mill constructed close where A. A. Sharp now resides, one-half mile from the village.

Henry Harper also had a grist mill which ground wheat, corn and buckwheat. It was located on the farm owned by Harmon Shinoberry. In connection with the grist mill Mr. Harper had a saw mill which has already been mentioned, a tan-yard, and one of the old fashioned-tilthammer blacksmith shops. The tilthammer was run by water-power. The mill for grinding grain crushed the kernels between two large revolving stones which were brought from Rockbridge county, Virginia. It was not used longer than 1896.

The Civil War. No battles of the Civil War were fought on the territory embraced within the Knapps Creek Community but brave men who have lived here were in service.

Some were valiant soldiers of the Federal Army while others joined the ranks of the Confederacy. Squads of Yankees frequently passed through this section and General Averill, a Union Commander, with his army, camped one night at Frost, marching on the next day to Huntersville.

**Establishment of Post Offices** - A post office was established at the village of Frost in 1853. Francis Dever was the first postmaster. In conversing with the oldest person in the community, Mrs. Ellen Buzzard, who was ninety-nine years of age on June 23, 1924, she says she does not remember how the name originated, but the presumption is that the name Frost was given to the office on account of the high altitude.

Early storekeepers were Frances Dever, Stuart Wade, Samuel Gibson, and J. E. Hannah.

Before "Uncle Sam" favored the people with a rural free delivery route there was a post office on Knapps Creek near the Mt. Carmel and Westminster Churches known as Sunset. Someone suggested this name because there was an office directly east of here in Batch County, Virginia, by the name of Sunrise. When mail was first carried to the early established offices it was only brought on Wednesdays and Saturdays. One of the early mail routes was from Huntersville to Mill Gap in Virginia.

**Roads.** The people were very much handicapped in their efforts to travel. Like Daniel Boone when he went to Kentucky they had to make the roads when they came to the country. The first known road leading from what is now Virginia into the Knapps Creek Valley came across the Allegheny Mountains just opposite the old Harper Mill. We find from the old land grants made by governors of Virginia, where corners were called for on this road which was then as Knapp's Spur, or the Spur Road. This name was likely given it because it was the road traveled by Mr. Knapp who will always be honored by the valley that has been named for him.

While the road is now only a pathway and but little traveled in this age of automobiles it shows evidence of having been dug or graded in a few places where it leads up a ridge on each side of the mountain. For years the people of Back Creek

and it is coming horseback to the Harpers Hill in bringing their grain to the ground.

The first wagon brought to Focahontas county was brought over Knapp's Spur Road and was taken up the hollow where Westminster Church now stands and which was known as the Ervine Hollow at that time, and on to Cloverlick where it was used.

As the valley improved the fields fenced the road was kept on the Alleghany side the greater part of the way. On account of the shade and ice there in winter parts of it were changed from time to time until the entire road was made on the opposite side of the valley. The last change was made about forty years ago by two colored men, Jacob Kernel and Andrew Daughtery of Frost. The state re-graded the road in 1923, making it much wider to accomodate the increased traffic.

Churches. In 1833 Mt. Zion Church in "The Hills" was built. It is a log structure but has been materially repaired and is still used for a house of worship. Previous to the erection of Mt. Vernon Church the people of Upper Knapp Creek attended services at Mt. Zion. Many of them went horseback across the country by way of the Hill Run at I. B. Moore's.

Mt. Vernon Church was erected in 1856. A noticeable feature of this building is the good quality of the lumber used. Scarcely a defective spot can be seen in the ceiling. John McElevée and son did the carpenter work. All the lumber was planed by hand at a shop on the land owned by Moses Moore who was a noted Christian Character.

Trinity M. E. Church at Frost was dedicated in 1886. The opening prayer was offered by Rev. Wm. T. Price of Marlinton. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. Niece of Monroe County. Rev. George Spencer was the pastor in charge.

New Hope Lutheran at Minnehaha was built in 1893 through the efforts of Henry Wills, Sr., and his family who came to Southard's creek in 1876. Before building the church they had occasional services by Lutheran pastors in their homes, in nearby churches, and in school houses. For some years after the building of the church the congregation was supplied by ministers from the South Branch Charge of Highland County, Virginia. Later it had a pastor of its own, but at the present

It is again supplied by an occasional visiting pastor.

Schools. We do not boast of any high school in our community at this writing for reason that the settlement is a scattered one, but we are proud of the progress the schools have made since the age of the log school house.

We are unable to say when the first school was taught at Frost. A person now living tells us of one being taught there in an old store building before the Civil War. At some later period a one room school house was built near the location of the present two roomed house. This was abandoned in 1912 and a modern school house erected.

When the Civil War began school was being taught by Miss Mattie Gum, the daughter of the late George Gingar of Huntersville, in a log school house which stood on the knoll near L. R. Hively's residence. The next building used for school in the Sunset neighborhood was on the hill not far from J. A. Cleeks.

We are indebted to Rev. Wm. T. Price for the history he recorded and left us.

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